



**FOR RELEASE:  
September 20, 2013**

**Contact: Alison Law  
[alison@alisonlaw.com](mailto:alison@alisonlaw.com)  
404.272.6203**

**PICKETT'S CHARGE, A Novel  
By Charles McNair**

Imagine Kurt Vonnegut and Ken Kesey joining forces with Shelby Foote and Margaret Mitchell to tell the last story of the American Civil War. Welcome to *Pickett's Charge*.

At 114 years old, Threadgill Pickett believes he is the only living Civil War veteran. He bides his time at a retirement home in Mobile, Alabama, where he nurses a great vengeance over something terrible that befell him as a boy on a journey to join the Confederate army.

On a day in turbulent 1964, Threadgill's long-dead brother, Ben, visits him with the news that one Union soldier remains alive, in faraway Bangor, Maine. Threadgill Pickett doffs an old hat with a yellowhammer feather in its band and heads north to fight the last battle of the Civil War. Through one improbable adventure after another, he finds himself forced to reexamine notions of valor and vengeance he has held so fiercely, so long.

Charles McNair inventively blends the historical fiction of Threadgill's past with 1960s-influenced tall tale-telling of an epic journey north. It's the most ambitious Civil War fiction since Charles Frazier's *Cold Mountain* and as sweeping ... on its own terms ... as *Gone with the Wind*.

*Pickett's Charge* is a long-awaited second novel. McNair's first novel, *Land O' Goshen* (St. Martin's Press; December 1994; ISBN-13: 978-0312112967), was a nominee for the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1994. Part romance, part adventure yarn, part horror story, this novel about a boy and his friend growing up in a mythical Southern town draws on the most fantastic elements in the tradition of Southern fiction.

**About the Author:**

Charles McNair, a native of the Yellowhammer State of Alabama, released his first novel, *Land O' Goshen*, to critical acclaim. *Land O' Goshen* was a nominee for the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1994. Charles currently lives in Atlanta where he writes full-time, combining freelance literary duties with assignments for corporations and businesses, including "Power of Storytelling" workshops. Since 2005, he has served as Books Editor for *Paste* magazine and shared his reviews on Atlanta radio station WMLB 1690 AM. He is currently at work on his third novel, *The Epicureans*. Visit Charles online at [charlesmcnairauthor.com](http://charlesmcnairauthor.com).

**PICKETT'S CHARGE, A Novel  
By Charles McNair  
Livingston Press  
On Sale: September 20, 2013  
Price: \$30.00 hardcover; \$18.95 trade paper  
ISBN 13: 978-1-60489-120-1 hardcover  
ISBN 13: 978-1-60489-121-8 trade paper**



### **Praise for *Pickett's Charge***

"Charles McNair is the mad moonshiner of American fiction. In *Pickett's Charge*, he has distilled a century of Southern history into a heady concoction that might not make you blind, but will certainly change the way you see our country." — Thomas Mullen, author of *The Revisionists*

"Charles McNair has crammed the whole history of the South into one man's epic lifetime adventure. *Pickett's Charge* is big and noisy, comic and tragic, absurd and profound: a hundred times larger than life. "

— Mark Childress, author of *Georgia Bottoms* and *Crazy in Alabama*

"Just your typical soul-searching, century-spanning Civil War story with all the usual ghosts, scaly monsters, time machines, and crazed monkeys. Spellbinding and raucous, epic and intimate, it could have come only from Charles McNair." — Jack Pendarvis, author of *The Mysterious Secret of the Valuable Treasure*

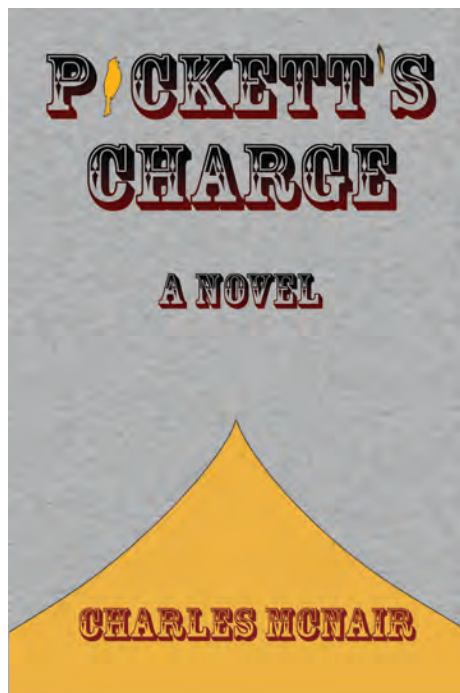
"*Pickett's Charge* is a rousing depiction of William Faulkner's belief that the past is not dead, it's not even past. Charles McNair is a gifted writer." — Ron Rash, author of *Serena*

### **Praise for *Land O' Goshen***

"In *Land O'Goshen*, Charles McNair has created an enchanting tour de force through the Southern backwoods that is guaranteed to keep you turning the pages. But this book and you'll be dying for his next one."

— Winston Groom, author of *Forrest Gump*

"Charles McNair has written a psycho-political thriller full of strange and wonderful twists and turns, bumps and surprises. A truly unique and original new voice." — Fannie Flagg, author of *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*



## Denise McNair and me

by Charles McNair

Cars lined the highway. People stalked eerily through headlights, streaming down in the dark toward a field. Three wooden crosses stood among corn rows, crosses empty of Jesus or thieves but soaked in reeking fuel by men in white robes with jerry cans.

As the crosses went up in flames, a cheer rose from the crowd. I can't recall if my father joined in, but he surely believed then ... and likely until the day he died ... that the Klansmen who shouted incendiary words that night in south Alabama in 1962 spoke for people like him.

People in love with defeat, a lost cause. People who held a grudge precious ... because they had so little else to hold onto.

I was eight. Boys down here are taught to believe what a father believes, taught to honor a father. It's right there in the Bible. You can look it up.

My conversion started when four little girls died in the Birmingham church bombing in 1963. I felt troubled especially that one of the children carried my own family name. Denise McNair was about my age. Were we ... kin? Cousins? Family matters more than anything, I'd been taught.

The coming years weren't hard because I came to believe in racial equality – that was only a wedge to split the tough wood. No, those years ached because I chose to leave behind a father and grandfathers and a legacy. It was especially hard to watch my daddy's beliefs, once all I had in the world to trust and depend on, diminish and fade away and grow grotesque.

I have friends and family members who never changed. They just couldn't go against blood and brothers and belief. They threw in with the prejudices of fathers. They held fiercely onto ugly ideas passed down to them, an inheritance just as unfortunate as diabetes or heart disease. They clung to bigotry and found it a comfort to believe God made them white because it's somehow better than other colors. I pray for them, these friends, my family. I love them and hope that they find a new confidence and faith.

*Pickett's Charge* explores legacy, belief, good and bad. I hope it is a memorable work.

### **PICKETT'S CHARGE, A Novel**

**By Charles McNair**

**Livingston Press**

**On Sale: September 20, 2013**

**Price: \$30.00 hardcover; \$18.95 trade paper**

**ISBN 13: 978-1-60489-120-1 hardcover**

**ISBN 13: 978-1-60489-121-8 trade paper**

*Available through Baker & Taylor, Brodart, Ingram, Yankee Book, SPD (Small Press Distribution, Berkeley)*

### **About the Author:**

Charles McNair, a native of the Yellowhammer State of Alabama, released his first novel, *Land O' Goshen*, to critical acclaim. *Land O' Goshen* was a nominee for the Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1994. Charles currently lives in Atlanta where he writes full-time, combining freelance literary duties with assignments for corporations and businesses, including "Power of Storytelling" workshops. Since 2005, he has served as Books Editor for *Paste* magazine and shared his reviews on Atlanta radio station WMLB 1690 AM. He is currently at work on his third novel, *The Epicureans*. Visit Charles online at [charlesmcnairauthor.com](http://charlesmcnairauthor.com).



The University of West Alabama's  
**Livingston Press**